
Validation of the Name *Ulmus kunmingensis* (Ulmaceae)

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ABSTRACT. *Ulmus kunmingensis* W. C. Cheng (Ulmaceae), originally described in 1963, was an invalidly published name, because two collections, one flowering and one fruiting, were designated as types. The name is validated here with the designation of the fruiting collection W. C. Cheng 11002 (NF) as the holotype.

Key words: China, Ulmaceae, *Ulmus*.

Ulmus kunmingensis W. C. Cheng (Cheng et al., 1963) was described based on material from Kunming, Yunnan, China. Unfortunately, it is invalidly published under Articles 8.1, 40.1, and 40.2 of the Melbourne Code (McNeil et al., 2012) because two collections, both kept at NF, one flowering (W. C. Cheng 11002) and the other fruiting (T. C. Chao 1516), were cited concurrently as types in the protologue. In the original description, Cheng et al. (1963) compared the species with *U. glaucescens* Franch. However, *U. kunmingensis* is easily distinguished from the latter by its seed apex not reaching the notch, and these two species were placed by Fu (1980) in different series, *Ulmus* ser. *Glabrae* Moss. and *Ulmus* ser. *Nitentes* Moss., respectively. Fu et al. (1979) reduced the name to the rank of variety as *U. changii* W. C. Cheng var. *kunmingensis* (W. C. Cheng) W. C. Cheng & L. K. Fu, but no validation of the basionym was undertaken at that time. Since then, some authors have treated *U. kunmingensis* as an independent taxon at the rank of species (Fu, 1980; Fu et al., 1982; Liu, 1985; Bao, 1990; Ma & Zhou, 1997; Mao, 2005; Li, 2006), while others have considered it a variety of *U. changii* (Li, 1982; Wu, 1984; Fu & Xin, 2000; Fu et al., 1998, 2003). In fact, *U. kunmingensis* is easily distinguished from *U. changii* by its flowers from mixed buds, scattered in basal or sub-basal bract axils on young branches and its leaf blades that abaxially bear tufted hairs in axils of veins. In contrast, *U. changii* is distinguished by its flowers in fascicled cymes from floral buds, not

mixed buds, and its leaf blades being either glabrous or pubescent along the veins. Given this morphological distinction, we therefore prefer to treat *U. kunmingensis* as a distinct taxon at the rank of species.

However, until now, the invalidity of Cheng's name was not recognized in recent floristic works. The present paper validates the name *Ulmus kunmingensis* under Article 33.1 (McNeill et al., 2012) by designating T. C. Chao 1516 as type. The selected holotype is a specimen with fruits in the herbarium NF and was cited in the original publication. The fruiting collection is preferred over the flowering one (Cheng 11002), both mentioned by Cheng (Cheng et al., 1963: 12), because fruit is one of the significant diagnostic characters to identify species in *Ulmus*. Validation is also supported by direct reference to Cheng's Latin description (Cheng et al., 1963: 12). The flowering collection, W. C. Cheng 11002, is designated as the paratype. We ascribe the name, *U. kunmingensis* to the original describing author, W. C. Cheng, which is supported by Article 46.2 (McNeill et al., 2012).

Ulmus kunmingensis W. C. Cheng, sp. nov. *Ulmus kunmingensis* W. C. Cheng, Sci. Silvae Sin. 8(1): 12. 1963, nom. inval. TYPE: China. Yunnan: Kunming, Xishan, 20 Mar. 1934 (fr.), T. C. Chao 1516 (holotype, NF; isotype, PE).

Distribution and habitat. *Ulmus kunmingensis* is endemic to China, occurring in Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces. It is known from forests at altitudes from 600 to 1800 m.

Paratype. CHINA. **Yunnan:** Kunming, Xishang, May 1942 (fl.), W. C. Cheng 11002 (NF, PE).

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